

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT

Jacobs Press Release

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CHILD SEX-ABUSERS TO SEE DAY IN COURT DAMAGES DON'T EXPIRE; WHY SHOULD THE ABILITY TO RECOVER?

LANSING – Senate Bill 1030, introduced this week by Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods), would eliminate the period of limitations applying to a victim's action to recover damages for a personal injury sustained from criminal sexual conduct. "Sexual conduct" is defined in the bill as sexual penetration or sexual contact with a minor victim by a person of authority over the victim.

Current Michigan law provides a two-year statute of limitations after the incident, plus an additional year after the victim reaches the age of majority.

"This legislation recognizes the human need for psychological healing, therapy and counseling," Jacobs said. "A person needs time in order to make an accurate assessment of the crime's long-term effects. Several recent high-profile cases demonstrated the need for extending the time necessary to prepare to come forward.

"My co-sponsors and I are hopeful that this legislation will reduce victims' trauma by allowing adequate time to heal before legal remedies expire."

The bill has been referred to the Judiciary Committee for consideration.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, and Southfield. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.